



Department of State

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 SMS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
M-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-16 ICA-11 ACDA-12 HA-05 RP-10 SR-04 IO-14
/123 W

-----000039 091545Z /50

R 090445Z MAY 80
FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 664
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE POUCH

Handwritten notes and signatures in a box.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PESHAWAR 0100

E.O. 12065: RDS-4 6/4/86 (ARCHARD, D.B) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, PEPR, SREF, MOPS, AF, UR, PK
SUBJECT: (C) JOURNALISTS' IMPRESSIONS OF AFGHAN INSURRECTION

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THIS CABLE SUMMARIZES THE IMPRESSIONS OF THREE FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM SEPARATE TRIPS WITH AFGHAN INSURGENTS TO KUNAR AND NANGARHAR PROVINCES. ONE VISITED THE PECH VALLEY OF NURISTAN WHERE HE SAW A HEAVY SOVIET AIR AND ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT ON SHIGAL AND MANY FLEEING REFUGEES. THE STRONGEST IMPRESSION HE RECEIVED WAS OF POORLY-ARMED, RAG-TAG TRIBESMEN HELPLESS AGAINST A MODERN SOVIET ARMY WITH TOTAL AIR SUPERIORITY. A FEW MILES AWAY, AT BERIKOT IN UPPER KUNAR, ANOTHER JOURNALIST SAW NO AIR ACTIVITY AND HEARD OF ONLY A HANDFUL OF RUSSIAN ADVISERS. THE THIRD JOURNALIST CROSSED SOUTHERN NANGARHAR TO JALALABAD.

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PASSING MANY DESERTED VILLAGES AND SOME REFUGEES.

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3. ALL JOURNALISTS AGREE THAT INSURGENTS ARE POORLY ARMED, TRAINED, AND LED AND REMAIN UNCOORDINATED. SOURCES ESTIMATE THAT 10 OF 15 PERCENT OF THE LAND HAS GONE OUT OF CULTIVATION. END SUMMARY.

*Note
Relevant.*

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8. IN PECH VALLEY, RED ARMY SEEMED TO MEET NO SIGNIFICANT RESISTANCE FROM LIGHTLY-ARMED INSURGENTS. INSTEAD, AS APPEARS TO BE GENERAL PATTERN, VILLAGERS FLED TOWARD PAKISTAN AS REFUGEES. ON THEIR RETURN, PARTY FELL IN WITH STREAM OF NURISTANI AND SAFI PATHAN REFUGEES, INITIALLY ABOUT 100, WHICH REPORTEDLY SWELLED TO 1,000 BEFORE THEY LEFT IT.

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R 090445Z MAY 80

FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 666

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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13. THE THIRD JOURNALIST SPENT MAY 12-22 IN SOUTHERN NANGARHAR PROVINCE AFTER CROSSING THE SAFED KOK RANGE FROM KURRUM AGENCY. TRAVELLING DOWN THE NORTH SLOPES, HE NOTICED A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF ABANDONED HOUSES AS HE PROGRESSED. HIGHER UP, MOST
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HOUSES WERE UNTOUCHED BY SIGNS OF WAR. CLOSE TO JALALABAD, A SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE WERE DAMAGED AND/OR UNINHABITED. HE MET A LIGHT BUT STEADY STREAM OF REFUGEES (PERHAPS 100 PER DAY) HEADED UP THE MOUNTAINS TOWARD REFUGE IN KURRUM AGENCY. HE UNDERSTOOD THEM TO BE FROM THE JALALABAD REGION.

*Not
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